



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

V. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Macky, Professor of History, to Mr. Mac Laurin, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and by him communicated to the President of the ROYAL SOCIETY; being an Extract from the Books of the Town-Council of Edinburgh, relating to a Disease there, supposed to be Venereal, in the Year 1497.*

Read March  
17. 1742-3.

**I**F the Venereal Disease was never known in *Europe* till the Siege of *Naples* 1495, it must have made a very quick Progress through *Europe* in a short time; for in 1497, I find it raging in *Edinburgh*, and our King and his Council terribly alarmed at this contagious Distemper, as appears from a Proclamation of King *James* the IVth, in the Records of the Town-Council of *Edinburgh*. The Minute of Council is dated the 22d of *September*. I have taken a Copy of it for your Amusement, and, if you please, you may communicate it to the SOCIETY. I have pretty nearly observed the old Spelling, except in Numbers.

“ 22. *Sept.* 1497.

“ **I**T is our Soverane Lords Will and the Command  
“ of the Lordis of his Counsaile send to the Provest  
“ and Baillies within this bur<sup>t</sup> that this Proclamation  
“ followand be put till execution for the eschewing  
“ of the greit appearand danger of the Infection of  
“ his Leiges fra this contagious sickness callit the  
“ *Grandgor*

“ *Grandgor* and the greit uther Skayth that may  
 “ occur to his Leiges and Inhabitans within this bur<sup>t</sup>;  
 “ that is to say, we charge straitly and commands  
 “ be the Auhority above writtin, that all manner of  
 “ personis being within the freedom of this bur<sup>t</sup>  
 “ quilks are infectit or hes been infectit uncurit with  
 “ this said contagious plague callit the *Grandgor*, de-  
 “ voyd, red and pass furt of this Town and compeir  
 “ upon the sandis of *Leith* at ten hours before none  
 “ and thair fall thai have and synd Botis reddie in the  
 “ havin ordanit to them be the Officeris of this bur<sup>t</sup>  
 “ reddely furneist with victuals to have thame to the  
 “ *Inche*\*, and thair to remane quhill God proviyd for  
 “ thair Health: And that all uther personis the quilks  
 “ taks upon thame to hale the said contagious infir-  
 “ mitie and taks the cure thairof that they devoyd  
 “ and pass with thame sua that nane of thair personis  
 “ quhilks taks sic cure upon thame use the samyn  
 “ cure within this bur<sup>t</sup> in pns nor peirt any manner  
 “ of way. And wha sa beis foundin infectit and not  
 “ passand to the *Inche* as said is be *Mononday* at the  
 “ Sone ganging to, and in lykways the said personis  
 “ that takis the sd Cure of sanitie upon thame gif  
 “ they will use the samyn thai and ilk ane of thame  
 “ falle be brynt on the cheik with the marking Irne  
 “ that thai may be kennit in tym to cum and thair-  
 “ after gif any of tham remanis that thai fall be  
 “ banist but favors.”

---

\* An Island in the *Frith* of *Edinburgh* over-against *Leith*.